

# The Virgins A. B. C.

O R,

An Alphabet of Vertuous Admonitions, for a Chast, Modest,  
and well-governed Maid.

The Tune is, The young-Mans A. B. C.



Exchange no love,  
but always constant be,  
Esteem true Love,  
a perfect treasury :  
For where true love  
and beauty doth unite,  
It yields both parties  
both their hearts delight.



Sign no affection,  
but where vows are past,  
Fix there your heart,  
there let your love be plac't  
For if by segned wiles,  
loves knot be ty'd,  
It breeds dissention,  
'twixt the Groom & Bride.



All you faithful Virgins,  
to this song give ear,  
And learn these Lessons,  
which are taught you here :  
An Alphabet of Vertues,  
are here set,  
Being learn'd  
will make a Maid compleat



Row not too proud,  
though smiling fortune do  
Great store of wealth, and  
her best gifts bestow :  
For pride the Proverb says,  
must have a fall,  
And so must Maidens,  
widdows, wives, and all.



Be not a scornful mind,  
although you are  
Beautious as Hellen,  
or like Venus fair :  
It ill becomes a  
forehead smooth and white,  
To threaten anger  
in a Lovers sight.



Ask not too much for  
marriage, nor the thing,  
Which doth not pleasure,  
but doth sorrow bring :  
For hasty lovers  
often do destroy,  
Their sweets of Love,  
e're they their hopes enjoy.



Chuse thou a modest  
carriage, and still be  
Courteous and not too coy,  
in company :  
Their nature's changing,  
and too much unkind,  
Who hath a comely face  
and scornful mind.



If you do chuse a man  
Whom you affect,  
Injure him not,  
with any disrespect :  
But wary be, and  
e're loves knot you tie,  
Probe first your own,  
and then his constancy.



Idainful never seem,  
nor yet too much  
Dote on your faces beauty,  
sighting such  
As sue for Love,  
least creeping age come on  
And then to late,  
your folly you bemoan.



Knowledge is gained by  
experience, and by this,  
Thou may'st arrive  
unto the height of bliss :  
First try, then tru't,  
the which when you have  
you both may love (prov'd  
and be as well belov'd.

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Look e're you leape,  
the proverb still doth say,  
Let not smooth tongues  
your love to Lust betray:  
In fairest Grasse  
a Snake is often found,  
And smoothest tongues,  
with falshood much abound



Seek therefore richer  
gifts then he can give,  
So shalt thou in a state  
most surely live:  
For though fair beauty,  
deck thy outward part,  
Yet inward vertue  
best adorns thy heart.



Man not too much,  
nor be thou always sad,  
Mirth sometimes may  
become a vertuous Maid:  
Yet use not too much  
laughter, lest you be  
Slighted and scorn'd,  
for your immodesty.



By that rich iem, which  
when thou hast attain'd,  
Thou hast a vertuous Maids  
chief beauty gain'd:  
And if fair Vertue  
do thy courtes steer,  
Like loves fair daughter,  
thou shalt bright appear.



Use uncivil talk,  
or gesture light,  
Nor in unseemly  
wantonness delight:  
But keep chaste begavour,  
that you may  
Have good report,  
in every kind of way.



Ain beauty's but a trifle,  
that a while  
Dame nature lends thee,  
with a flattering smile:  
Which lovers gaze at,  
and with greedy hands,  
Each one would crop its  
blossoms as it stands.



Send not with a foul  
and slanderous tongue,  
Of them that do not  
think thee any wrong;  
But speak thou well of all,  
and always do  
With others as you would  
have them to do with you.



Hill in its fullest ripeness  
it is grown,  
When 'tis decay'd,  
their loves are with it gone  
Let then this be thy care,  
and chiefest strife,  
To live a vertuous Maid,  
and honest Wife.



Aint not your beauty  
when it is decay'd,  
Prize not that for,  
a jewel that will fade,  
And when you've done,  
the best will fade away,  
And through red Cheeks,  
a wrinkled brow display.



Antippe like the wife  
of Socrates,  
Affect thou not  
thy husband to displease:  
Nor with a railing tongue,  
persue his will,  
And in humility,  
obey him still,



Quench in thy self  
all lusts inflaming fires,  
Which may provoke thee  
to such unchaste desires:  
For though a while such  
pleasure please thy mind,  
Yet sorrow, want,  
and beggary comes behind.



Eld not to others, when  
you once are wed,  
The pleasures of  
your lawful husbands bed:  
For if you guilty be  
of such a fact,  
Thou shalt not escape,  
unpunisht for that act.



Remember next,  
how like a fading flower,  
The earths best treasures  
vanish in an hour:  
And now the best of things  
you can enjoy,  
The Sithe of time shall cut,  
and death destroy.



Envious be thou in all  
these vertues, prove  
Both constant, chaste, and  
loyal to your love:  
And if these Lessons  
well you learn, for thee,  
'Tis truly said  
the Origins A, B, C;